

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 12th January 1878.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramjibī"	Baráhanagar ...	4,000	
2	"Rajshahye Sambād"	Rajshahye ...	.....
3	"Grāmbártá Prakáshiká"	Comercolly ...	200	
4	"Arya Pratibhá"	Bhowanipore ...	.....
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
5	"Culna Prakásh"	Culna ...	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
6	"Banga Hitaishí"	Bhowanipore ...	.....
7	"Bishwa Dút"	Táligunj, Calcutta ..	.....
8	"Bishwa Suhrid"	Mymensingh ...	450	
9	"Bhārat Mihir"	Do. ...	658	3rd January 1878.
10	"Bhārat Sangskarak"	Calcutta ...	.....	31st December 1877.
11	"Bengal Advertiser"	Do. ...	.....
12	"Dacca Prakásh"	Dacca ...	400	6th January 1878.
13	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	1,168	4th ditto.
14	"Moorshedabad Pratinidhi"	Berhampore ...	.....	4th ditto.
15	"Pratikár"	Do. ...	235	4th ditto.
16	"Grāmbártá Prakáshiká"	Comercolly ...	200	5th ditto.
17	"Sambād Bháskar"	Calcutta ...	.....
18	"Sulabha Samáchár"	Do. ...	5,500	29th December 1877 & 5th
19	"Sádháraní"	Chinsurah ...	516	January 1878.
20	"Hindu Hitaishiní"	Dacca ...	300	5th January 1878.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
	BENGALI—(Continued). Weekly—(Continued).			
21	"Soma Prakásh"	Bhowanipore ...	700	7th January 1878.
22	"Sahachar"	Calcutta ...	.....	31st December 1877.
23	"Hindu Ranjiká"	Bauleah, Rajshahye	.....	2nd January 1878.
24	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ...	Kákinia, Rungpore	250	
25	"Burdwan Pracháriká"	Burdwan ...	165	
26	"Banga Mittra"	Calcutta ...	4,000	
	Daily.			
27	"Sambád Prabhákar"	Do. ...	550	21st December 1877 to 4th January 1878.
28	"Sambád Púrnachandrodaya" ...	Do. ...	.....	5th to 11th January 1878.
29	"Samáchár Chandriká"	Do. ...	625	8th January 1878.
30	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká" ...	Do. ...	.....	29th December 1877 to 8th January 1878.
31	"Arya Mihir"	Do. ...	.....
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI. Weekly.			
32	"Amrita Bazar Patriká"	Do. ...	2,217	3rd January 1878.
33	"Howrah Hitakarí"	Bethar, Howrah ...	300	6th ditto.
34	"Moorshedabad Patriká"	Berhampore ...	.....	4th ditto.
35	"Burrisal Bártábaha"	Burrisal ...	300	
	ENGLISH AND URDU.			
36	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta ...	400	5th ditto.
	URDU. Bi-monthly.			
37	"Akhhár-ul-Akhiár"	Mozufferpore ...	.....
	HINDI. Weekly.			
38	"Behár Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna...	509	9th ditto.
	PERSIAN.			
39	"Jám-Jahán-numá"	Calcutta ...	250	4th and 11th January 1878.

POLITICAL.

The *Sulabha Samáchar*, of the 29th December, thus writes regarding the Frontier Question :—"The Pathans and other savage hill tribes, living on the Western Frontier of India, have ever been hostile to the British Government; and although vanquished in open battles, they do not appear willing to lose any opportunity of renewing hostilities in British territories. The Amir is extremely dissatisfied with the Government of India, and is also in constant need of funds. Should the Russians now secure an alliance with him, by making payments of money and granting him an extension of territory, it is not improbable that they may undertake a joint invasion of India. At the present time, therefore, it behoves the British Government to conciliate the natives, such, for instance, as the Punjabees, Mahrattas, Hindustanis, and Mahomedans. We exclude the Bengalis from this list, for they must ever remain a subject people. Let not Government pay any heed to their cries of sorrow. They are rather well off at present; and news of bloodshed or war only makes them weep. May India never be stained with bloodshed! The rulers and the people should unite and be prepared for the enemy. The former should remember that surfeit may occasion death. With covetousness restrained, and agreement at home, there need be no fear in the hour of danger. It behoves Government to conciliate the people."

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
December 29th, 1877.

The position of England.

2. The *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 5th January, dwells on the present isolated position of England in regard to the political situation in Europe. She should yet come to the help of Turkey; otherwise the reproach of perfidiousness will be cast upon her, for thus deserting her ally in the hour of danger. By persevering in the present line of policy, England will also lose her great reputation as a military power.

HINDU HITASHINI.
January 5th, 1878.

3. Two correspondents of the *Soma Prakash*, writing respectively on the war in Europe and the relations of the British Government with the Amir of Cabul, point out the policy, which, in their opinion, the Government of India should follow in reference to these questions. The former of these writers dwells on the loss of prestige which England has had to endure within the last 50 years, and the fear which she entertains of the power of Russia; and advises the Government, in view of a Russian invasion of India, which must come to pass sooner or later, to conciliate the natives by treating them with a just and impartial consideration, and raising a native army for the defence of the empire.

SOM PRAKASH,
January 7th, 1878.

The Amir of Cabul.

The other writer thinks it proper to declare war against the Amir, and depose him from the throne of Cabul, for his utter perfidiousness to the British Government. An extension of the British power in Cabul will also secure India against any foreign invasion.

The loyalty of the educated natives.

The editor takes occasion to add a few remarks of his own. The tone of the second communication and the advice it contains, is a clear proof of the loyalty of the educated native to British rule. In fact, English education has made him so ardent an admirer of the present government that he does not hesitate, as in the present instance, to tender counsel opposed to all considerations of justice or prudence. In view of such cases, the charge of disloyalty, brought against educated natives by a portion of the Anglo-Indian community, can only be regarded as utterly absurd and malicious.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
December 29th, 1877.

4. Adverting to the case of assault, noticed in paragraph 13, of our report of the 22nd December, the *Sulabha Samáchar*, of the 29th idem, remarks:—"The

The Julpigoree assault case.

Julpigoree assault case is gradually wearing a more serious aspect. We hear that Mr. Kirkwood is the Magistrate of that district. Occurrences like this have an extremely depressing effect upon the Bengalis. How intensely do low Englishmen despise us! We beseech Lord Lytton and Mr. Eden to direct their attention to this case."

SULABHA SAMACHAR.

5. Regarding the assault case noticed above, a correspondent of the same paper, writing from Julpigoree, dwells on the unjust manner in which the European

The same subject.

Traffic Inspector of the line treated the subordinate native officers of the Northern Bengal State Railway, who had rendered assistance to the injured party. They have been suspended and insulted for doing their duty; and the Traffic Inspector has in a manner encouraged the offenders.

SULABHA SAMACHAR.

6. The same paper thus observes, in reference to the early publication of the Financial Statement by Sir John Strachey, with a view to invite public opinion thereon: Notwithstanding all our anxieties

What value is attached to native public opinion.

and protestations, Government will not swerve from its intentions. Its professions would be agreeable to us, if there were really a desire to abide by public opinion; otherwise it is but trifling with the public. What is the use of holding out false hopes? It is but a mockery, on the part of a subject people, to express their views regarding any public question.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
December 31st, 1877.

7. Referring to the case of Lieutenant Wilson, noticed in paragraph 14 of our report of the 29th December, the *Bhārat Sangskārak*, of the 31st idem, writes

as follows:—"It was but the other day that Mr. Eden, on the occasion of a Durbar at Belvedere, administered a severe reproof to native editors for the supposed disloyal and seditious character of their writings. Their real fault, however, seems to be, that they expose the oppressions committed by lawless Europeans with some very sharp comments of their own. His Honor, it seems, is determined to put a stop to this unbecoming practice on their part; although no means have yet been devised which might accomplish his purpose. Whatever Mr. Eden may say, the people of Bengal cannot any longer bring themselves to approve of the doings of wicked tyrants. The country groans under, and is agitated by, the oppressions of wicked, hot-headed, and low Europeans. The gigantic *ashwathwa* (*ficus religiosa*) grows upon the solid and high walls of a temple, and gradually spreading over the whole edifice, ultimately destroys it. By similarly working into the lowest strata of the foundations of the British power, these oppressions will gradually divest it of all its glory, and leave it but an empty name.

"The spectre of malarious fever is stalking over Bengal from one place to another, while every division, city, and village resounds with the cry of oppressions committed by diabolical Europeans. Until efficient means are used for the punishment of such offenders, the native papers will continue loudly to proclaim their misdeeds. However sharp may be the reproof administered by Mr. Eden, and in spite of any thunderbolts which he may find it necessary to hurl against them in order to curb their spirit, or of the glare of British bayonets with which he may think fit to intimidate them, they never can, nor will call oppression by the misnomer of kind treatment. The natives of Bengal—nay, any creature bearing the name of man—will

never worship such men as Kirkwood, the hero of Chittagong, and his worthy compeers. Let Mr. Eden teach rude Europeans to mend their ways, and the quiet and peaceful people of Bengal will not open their mouths. The natives of this province are naturally the foremost in according honor where honor is due. On the other hand, abuses have been exposed ever since the creation of the world. The oppressions, we complain, of are on the increase."

8. The *Sahachar*, of the 31st December, writes a long article, reviewing the speech, lately delivered in England, by Mr. Elliot on the prevention of famines in

How famines may be prevented.

SAHACHAR,
December 31st, 1877.

India. The writer agrees in the main with the sentiments of the speech, and makes the following observations: In order to improve the condition of the soil, a permanent settlement of land should be made all over the country. The introduction of the system into Bengal has created quite a change in the status of the peasantry. Those living in the northern, eastern, and central districts of this province are now a prosperous people; and each ryot has at least a year's store of grain in his house. Government, however, acting under the influence of the Anglo-Indian newspapers and the Punjabi politicians, has proceeded to violate this settlement; and it is for this reason that the road cess was imposed. The rulers do not seem to understand that a tax on land, permanently fixed, conduces to the prosperity of a country. They do not seem to see that a single famine would cost nearly ten times as much as could be levied in ten years by means of the road cess, the public works cess, or any other tax. The zemindars in the North-Western Provinces do not care to make improvements in the land for fear of an enhancement of revenue. Colonel Baird Smith, Lord Canning, and Sir Charles Wood, were all in favour of a permanent settlement. Unfortunately for the country, Lord Lawrence came shortly afterwards; and with him appeared his evil counsellor Strachey on the political horizon. Ever since that time famines have recurred frequently; and Government is sucking dry the income from land. Under this Punjabi statesmanship the country is being impoverished, and the slightest drought reduces millions to starvation. The editor thus concludes the article:—The question is, is the British Government prepared to administer the country with a view solely to its good? We are constrained expressly to state that in matters of commerce and manufacture, it sacrifices the interests of India to those of particular sections of Englishmen. Would the merchants of Manchester have asked for a repeal of the import duties, if there had been no cloth mills established in Bombay and other places in this country? In proposing a tax on the produce of these mills, has not an attempt been made to ruin the native industries? The rulers act, as though they did not understand, that land alone cannot sustain such a large population. While every obstacle is thrown on the way of development of the native industries, land is saddled with taxation. Government too, like the zemindars, levies *abwabs*. There is only this difference between them, that whereas the latter cannot make laws, the former can. Do justice: otherwise a perseverance in the present line of policy will bring ruin upon the country.

9. The same paper is gratified to notice that Mr. Eden has directed his attention to the administration of the Police Department. The majority of the

The police.

SAHACHAR.

officers in this branch of the public service are inefficient, illiterate, low, and corrupt. They break the peace instead of maintaining it; and it is through their faults that large numbers of innocent people are punished, while the

guilty escape. They are notorious for their oppressions and extortions. Bribery and false evidence reign supreme in the department. Mr. Eden will confer a valuable boon on the country, if he succeeds in purging this important branch of the administration of its many abuses. For this purpose, it is necessary that the pay of the subordinate officers should be so increased as to place them above the reach of temptation, and offer inducement to educated natives to enter the police.

BHARAT MIHIR,
January 3rd, 1878.

10. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 3rd January, in an article headed the "Reformation of the police," makes the same observations as those noticed in the preceding paragraph.

The police.

BHARAT MIHIR.

11. The same paper has the following on the subject of a famine tax. In dealing with the Madras famine, although the Government of India, acting upon the

A famine tax.

advice of Sir Richard Temple at the outset, followed a mistaken policy, this was amply compensated for by the liberality and large-heartedness of Lord Lytton at the end. For this His Excellency's name will ever remain engraven in indelible characters upon the hearts of the people. Government, however, for its successful efforts to suppress the calamity, has been involved in debt. We are not so selfish as to be unwilling to come to its aid on such an occasion—nay, we shall gladly do so, to the best of our ability for its noble exertions in relieving the distress. It is indeed true that famines must now be viewed in the light of ordinary occurrences, and that a distinct fund should be created for meeting the cost of its suppression. For this purpose, we shall submit without protest to any additional tax that may be imposed upon us. It is, however, to be regretted that, like an unskilful physician, Government is anxious only to prescribe for the symptoms of the malady as they successively arise than for the malady itself. The true cause of the frequent recurrence of famines during the last few years is yet to be found out. As to the means whereby these may be adequately dealt with when they actually break out, every expedient is being attempted except the true one—namely, the reduction of expenditure. Sir John Strachey, of course, considers this impracticable; but properly considered, there is yet much room for retrenchment. The civilian officers under the British Government in India are the most highly paid of all in the world. A reduction of their salaries would effect a considerable amount of saving. But who will dare touch their pockets? The home and the military charges also admit of considerable reductions.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
January 3rd, 1878.

12. We make the following extracts from an article headed the "Budget" from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, of the 3rd January:—"What we had feared has

The Financial Statement.

come to pass. Not content with imposing the road and the public works cesses and an enhanced stamp duty, again has Government thrown the pressure of taxation on the poorer classes. May God save them from an utter breakdown under this burden, and India from the outbreak of another famine!" After giving the substance of Sir John Strachey's financial statement, the editor remarks:—"We cannot realize how Government could have brought itself to impose taxes on the people of Madras and Bombay, so soon after their period of distress. The Stamp Bill, if passed, and the enhanced salt duties will press upon them; and they will be further subjected to a license tax. Are they the same people, the tale of whose distress evoked the sympathy of almost all the nations of the world; for whose relief even the people of Turkey, forgetful of their own misfortunes, sent aid; and whose pitiable

condition even led the boys in schools to raise subscriptions on their behalf? Since Government had determined to impose a tax upon them, it should have been done in secret; for not only India and the British Government, but the whole world and the human race, will be wronged thereby. It would have been well in Sir John Strachey, if he had not referred to the frequent recurrence of famines in India, which was for so long a time the land of plenty. The less said about the matter, the better. By proclaiming this to the world, he has but published the shame of the British Government. It would have been also better if he had left another matter unsaid: namely, the economy practised by the Government in incurring expenditure, and his proud challenge to the public to show where reduction was feasible. The people of England may be pleased to hear this boastful language, the self-seeking Anglo-Indians may applaud it, but it can only excite the contempt of the natives of India. Another point also had better have remained unsaid. According to Sir John Strachey, on the occurrence of a famine, the agricultural and trading classes are most profited, and should not, therefore, withhold their contribution from efforts to avert distress. But as a matter of fact, no class of the community gain more largely by this calamity than Europeans. Many probably would never have thought of the gravity of the injustice, that has been committed by Sir John Strachey, if this had not been adverted to at all."

13. Adverting to the imposition of a license tax on Bengal, the same paper complains that, with the exception of those who are in service and the agriculturists,

A license tax in Bengal.

all others are liable to pay this impost. Every one who follows a trade or dealing falls under the scope of the Act. Even the helpless Brahmin widow, who ekes out a miserable livelihood by spinning and selling *paithás* (the Brahminical thread), and the poor female who earns a subsistence by selling herbs or sticks for fuel gathered with difficulty, have not been exempted. This beneficial measure has been introduced by our Lieutenant-Governor; and Mr. Mackenzie has asked us, in the name of loyalty and patriotism, to support it with cordiality. The editor then proceeds to dwell on the advantages of an income tax, and observes that the only reason, why it will not be resorted to, is, that it touches the pockets of Englishmen.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
January 3rd, 1878.

14. The views of the *Grámbártá Prákáshiká*, of the 5th January, on the subject of a license tax, are identical with those of the *Amrita Bazar Patriká*

A license tax in Bengal.

GRAMBARTA
PRÁKASHIKA,
January 5th, 1878.

noticed in the preceding paragraph.

15. We extract the following observations from the *Dacca Prákásh*, of the 6th January, on the financial statement of Sir John Strachey: Although the argu-

The Financial Statement.

DACCA PRÁKASH,
January 6th, 1878.

ments employed by the Finance Minister, to prove the necessity of a new tax, may at first sight appear irrefragable, still a closer examination does not show them to be faultless. It cannot, indeed, be questioned that famines now recur frequently in this country, and that considerable funds are necessary to suppress them; but that these may not be obtained without laying a permanent tax on the people is not generally believed. Many similarly do not admit that there is no room for further reduction of expenditure. Who does not consider this practicable in a state, where a third part of the revenues is needlessly expended in the shape of army charges, where the officers are paid on a scale which does not obtain in any other country, and where vast sums are wasted on sojournings in hills and on durbars? It is, however, something that a license tax on trades and dealings, &c., has been proposed.

There would not be much room for fear if the tax were judiciously collected. In this connection, it is to be asked if the public works cess is to be made permanent, as appears from the speech of Sir John Strachey. No such intimation was, however, given before. Not having derived any profit from famines, but on the contrary being rather losers, the landholding classes should not be made liable to a public works cess.

SOMA PRAKASH,
January 7th, 1878.

16. In commenting upon the same subject, the *Soma Prakásh*, of the 7th January, recognizes the duty of all classes of the people loyally and gratefully to

The Financial Statement.

come forward to the help of Government, which has saved them from a dire calamity. The policy, however, of exempting certain classes, while others are made liable to the tax, does not appear to be either just or wise. We admit that, of all others, the trading classes ought to bear the burden it is proposed to impose upon them; but why exempt some of their number from the operations of the measure? Those that are in the public or any private service, or those wealthy classes whose income can be easily ascertained without the adoption of any inquisitorial measures, such, for instance, as those who have largely invested in Government securities, should not be allowed to go untaxed. An undue favour has also been shown towards Europeans on the ground of the dearness of provisions and the state of the exchange market. The poorer of the class may indeed receive some consideration on this ground, but those who enjoy large incomes have no reason to claim the concession.

SOMA PRAKASH.

17. The same paper dwells on the extravagance of Government in the matter of expenditure, and the skill and originality it displays in increasing its income. The Legislative Council should have control over public expenditure.

A study of its financial policy shows that it apparently works on two different systems. When it is a question of income, a truly European system, evincing much skill and thought, is followed; in relation to expenditure, however, the system in force may be styled *nawabi* or irresponsible. In securing an increase of revenue or imposing a tax, the legislature is appealed to for sanction and support; but no supervision is exercised by the Council over expenditure. The Famine Minister is clearly unfit, as experience shows, to exercise this control. It is therefore exceedingly necessary that the Legislative Council should have a controlling power over both the income and expenditure of the Imperial and Provincial Governments.

LOCAL.

MOORSHEDABAD
PRATINIDHI,
January 4th, 1878.

18. The *Moorshedabad Pratinidhi*, of the 4th January, directs the attention of the Commissioners of the Moorshedabad Municipality to the unhealthiness of Berhampore and the adjacent villages, caused by the frequent throwing in of corpses into the river, which renders the water impure.

Throwing of corpses into the river below Berhampore.

MOORSHEDABAD
PATRIKA,
January 4th, 1878.

19. The *Moorshedabad Patriká*, of the 4th January, also makes the same complaints, and addresses the same authorities for redress.

The same subject.

MOORSHEDABAD
PATRIKA.

20. A correspondent of the same paper dwells on the courtesy and affability of Mr. Hodgkinson, the Acting Magistrate of Moorshedabad; and describes how, on the occasion of a recent visit to Talibpore, a flourishing village in the district, he inspected the school and gave money from his own pocket to purchase books for the distribution of prizes to the boys. Much encouragement was thus given to education. The Magistrate also made enquiries of the peasants as to the condition of the crops.

Mr. Hodgkinson, the Acting Magistrate of Moorshedabad.

MISCELLANEOUS.

21. The *Sulabha Samáchar*, of the 29th December, contains a cartoon composed of the following figures, viz. a cooly lying dead, his wife crying by his side, a European doctor holding a *post-mortem* examination of the body, and another European, a blow from whose fist has caused the death, quietly smoking a cigar not far from the spot. We give a translation of the letter-press, headed "Bursting Pain":—

The "diseased spleen" in the natives.

Mr. Rogue, of the factory at Kritántapore (*lit.* the city of death), strikes such a blow on the nose of a labourer that the poor man dies from a rupture of the spleen. Dr. Bribe is examining the body; and not far from it stands weeping the wife of the deceased. Mr. Rogue, after having committed the murder, is smoking a cigar.

Rogue.—Well, Dr. Bribe, what do you think of the matter? D—n nigger native. Has not the death been caused by a rupture of the spleen?

Doctor.—Yes, there is no doubt of that. The spleens of natives are, I know, very brittle: the slightest stroke causes a rupture.

Rogue.—Will you be able to say as much in Court?

Doctor.—Oho! certainly; I shall prove it. I have read in anatomy that there is a close connection between the nose and the spleen. But Mr. Rogue, you must do one thing: give a few rupees to that woman.

The Trial.

A special jury was empanelled, composed of Andrew, Peter, DeCruze, Gomes, Sullivan, and others. The defendant's counsel, Mr. Barrister Matru, thus addressed the Court:—"My lord,—My client Mr. Rogue has been in this country for twenty years. He is of a very kind disposition, has never struck anybody, and greatly loves the tenants. For insubordination, the cooly received a gentle blow on his nose from Mr. Rogue. This, however, caused a rupture of the spleen, from the effects of which the unfortunate man has died. My client has paid a few rupees to the widow of the deceased."

The doctor's evidence having been gone into, the jury retired for some time, after which the foreman, DeCruze, returned with a unanimous verdict of "not guilty."

The Judgment.

Whereas it appears from the deposition of the defendant, Mr. Rogue, that he, under provocation, for the purpose of enforcing discipline, and not with a view to cause death, struck the deceased a blow; and whereas the evidence of Dr. Bribe proves that death was the result of a rupture of the spleen, it is clear that the prosecution has been instigated by extreme maliciousness. Every native is a liar; and a conspiracy has been made against this gentleman. Mr. Rogue, a foreigner and new arrival in this country, has been charged with murder. Should such conspiracies occur frequently, no Englishman will have the courage to come out for the improvement of this country; for the life of a European here is constantly beset with dangers. For perjury and false evidence the plaintiffs shall be sentenced to undergo imprisonment for six years. The court has been enabled to comprehend the true state of the case from the evidence given on oath by the defendant and the doctor. They are Christians and Europeans; and as such are not likely to say what is false. I therefore agree with the verdict of the jury and acquit the defendant.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
December 29th, 1877.

After this Mr. Rogue shook hands with Dr. Bribe and said, "What a nice law this is, that a native judge cannot try a British-born subject? Ha! ha! ha!" They both then with loud laughter went to the Judge's house and dined with him; after which the three together went a hunting.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 12th January 1878.

JOHN ROBINSON,
Government Bengali Translator.